

There are only a limited number of broadcast frequencies available and massive ownership of them by a few companies means less competition, fragmentation of formats over several stations in one market allowing for only the most "desireable" demos to be served. Middle aged and older left out. Consolidation also means fewer points of view on issues and of course incidents such as with the chemical spill in Minot, ND. not being reported on air.

I believe that companies should be allowed to own fewer stations each rather than more. Competition is what made this country great. Consolidation means companies don't have to worry about putting forth a better product. It also makes for a tightly controlled music industry. Fewer new performers getting a chance. Selling prices for stations are bid through the roof. Comparing prices of now and pre "deregulation" bear out the unnatural rise. Small businesses suffer losing a place for reasonable priced advertising since companies have to pay for their purchases somehow. The public is treated to mega spot clusters.

I honestly believe that the large broadcasting companies of today could not survive if they had to compete in the programming arena. It's like a lousy but wealthy poker player buying the pot.